

The background of the entire slide is an underwater photograph showing green seaweed or kelp swaying in the water. The lighting is blue, typical of an underwater environment.

# **CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP...**

**These groups have a  
combined  
United States membership of  
1,192,388**

**SAVE OUR SHORES**

**SANCTUARY STEWARDS**

**THE OCEAN CONSERVANCY**

**BAY NET**

**SIERRA CLUB - MONTEREY**

**SIERRA CLUB - SANTA CRUZ**

**WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**

**MONTEREY BAY AQUARIUM**

**FRIENDS OF THE SEA OTTER**

**DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE**

**AMERICAN CETACEAN SOCIETY - MONTEREY CHAPTER**

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

**MARINE MAMMAL CENTER**

**COASTAL WATERSHED COUNCIL**

**PUBLIC AT LARGE MEMBERS :**

**(RON MASSINGILL; JOHN FISHER; DAVID ZACHES ; DEBORAH  
STREETER)**

**The Conservation Working Group (CWG) has been discussing issues**

**for the MBNMS Management Plan Review for 10 months,  
starting in January of 2001**

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**Scientific presentations were given on:**

- o Shoreline Protection - (CA Coastal Commission)
- o Intertidal Zones - (Hopkins Marine Station)
- o Desalination - (MBNMS)
- o Dredging and Disposal - (MBNMS)
- o Benthic Disturbance by Trawling - (Monterey Bay Aquarium)
- o Water Quality Protection - (MBNMS & The Ocean Conservancy)
- o BioInvasions - (Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve)
- o Fisheries Resources of Monterey Bay - (CA Sea Grant)
- o Bycatch in Central Coast Gillnet Fisheries - (Moss Landing Marine Lab & National Marine Fisheries Service)



# OTHER ISSUES

- AQUACULTURE / SALMON PENS - Address under WQ and invasives
- ENERGY PRODUCTION - Address under WQ
- CRUISE SHIPS - Address under WQ
- MARINE DEBRIS: PLASTIC, BALLOONS, ETC. - Continue education efforts
- RECREATIONAL IMPACTS - Continue education efforts
- FIREWORKS - Develop policy with USF&WS
- KELP HARVESTING IMPACTS - Sanctuary should review State Kelp Plan during their five year review
- ARTIFICIAL REEFS - Refer to existing regulations on benthic disturbance
- BY-CATCH - Sanctuary should partner with DFG and PFMC in research, enforcement and data collection efforts. No recommendation for direct Sanctuary regulation
- WHALE WATCHING / MARINE MAMMAL IMPACTS - Refer to MMPA, develop and implement education campaign regarding harassment/disturbance of marine mammals, esp. on beaches/rookeries. Participate in education campaigns to influence fishers regarding compliance with MMPA
- AIRCRAFT OVER FLIGHTS - Work with FAA to address charts and over flight regulations
- WHITE SHARK-PUBLIC INTERACTION GUIDELINES - Address in the Gulf of the Farallones MPR

# **CWG PRIORITY ISSUES**

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**CWG has identified 12 issues under the following three categories:**

- 1. SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE**
- 2. WATER QUALITY**
- 3. ECOSYSTEM/SPECIES**

**Following are our Priority Issues, Impacts and Recommendations for each Priority Issue.**



# **PRIORITY ISSUES – SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE**

## **DREDGING/DISPOSAL**

### **Impacts:**

**Burial of benthic organisms, water quality impacts associated with suspended sediments, contamination concerns.**

### **Recommendations:**

- Establish interagency dredging permit coordination process (see SF model) to improve process and ensure protection of Sanctuary resources.**
- Maintain existing harbor/sanctuary boundaries and dredge disposal sites.**



# PRIORITY ISSUES – SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE

## COASTAL ARMORING

### Impacts:

Loss of sand-flow to beaches, beach erosion, impacts to surf breaks, loss of public access to beach (as beach is covered by rip rap and seawalls, or undermined by wave action), aesthetic impacts.

### Recommendations:

- Create Sanctuary wide policy (with other agencies) to address shoreline management in a manner that protects and restores natural shorelines and processes.



# PRIORITY ISSUES – SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE

## BOTTOM TRAWLING

### Impacts:

**Alters benthic organisms and bottom habitats – displacement of rocks that serve as cover for fish and invertebrates, disruption of bottom results in species diversity, abundance and distribution.**



### Recommendations:

- **Work with DFG, NMFS, research community, fishermen and other stakeholders to:**
- **Evaluate physical and biological impacts of bottom trawling.**
- **Ensure protection of species diversity and abundance and habitat.**

# PRIORITY ISSUES – SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE

## FIBER-OPTIC CABLES

### Impacts:

**Benthic and water quality impacts associated with burial, repair and removal stages of cable project, potential for marine mammal entanglement, impacts of coastal landings (disturbance of marine mammals and birds) and impacts to commercial fisheries (such as gear entanglements).**

### Recommendations:

- **Avoid cable laying in Sanctuary.**
  - **Work with National NOAA to adopt fiber optic cable installation policies including fees system that clearly discourages installation in sanctuaries.**
- If cable proposal is considered:**
- **Require use of out of Sanctuary alternative where feasible,**
  - **Require showing of need for capacity,**
  - **Limit cable installation to corridors based on habitat sensitivity.**



# **PRIORITY ISSUES – SEAFLOOR DISTURBANCE**

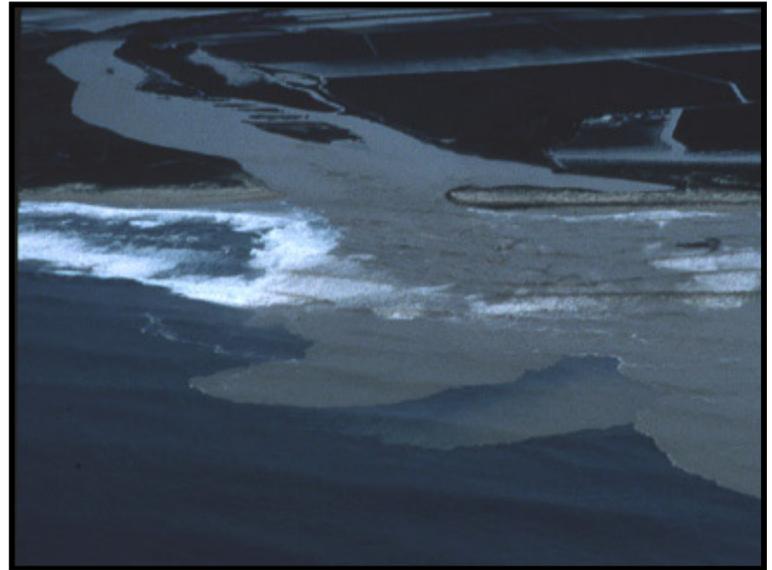
## **LANDSLIDE DISPOSAL**

### **Impacts:**

**Burial and increased sedimentation to tidepools and other nearshore resources. Visual impacts and pedestrian access problems.**

### **Recommendations:**

- **Complete development of disposal policy.**
- **Avoid impacting sensitive biological and archeological areas and resources.**
- **Prohibit disposal of highway landslide materials that exceed predicted natural inputs (i.e., differs in volume, composition, location, and timing from naturally occurring landslides in the area).**



# PRIORITY ISSUES – WATER QUALITY

## POINT AND NON-POINT SOURCE RUNOFF

### Impacts:

Pollution affects Sanctuary living resources directly and indirectly, also affects recreational and commercial use of the Sanctuary.

### Recommendations:

- In conjunction with other agencies, NGO's and private groups, fully implement completed WQPP Plans addressing: Harbors and Marinas, Agriculture and Rural Lands, Urban Runoff, and Monitoring.
- Develop and implement plan addressing point sources including stormdrains, sewage infrastructure problems and resolve beach closure issues.
- Increase funding for sewage system/stormdrain infrastructure improvements.
- Develop and implement plan addressing Riparian/Wetland Resources.
- Conduct strong and diligent review and comment on all NPDES permits and projects in and affecting the Sanctuary.



# PRIORITY ISSUES – WATER QUALITY

## DESALINATION

### Impacts:

Environmental degradation is associated with water intake, discharge of brine and energy use. Population growth issues.

### Recommendations:

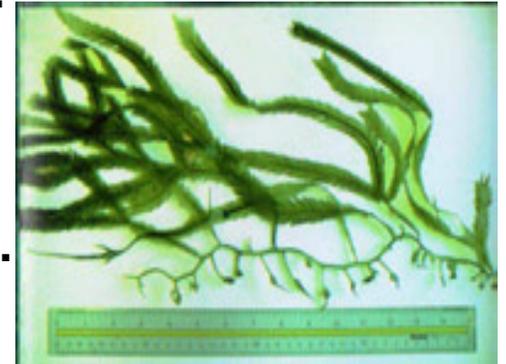
- Develop Sanctuary wide policy with other agencies to avoid impacts.
- Prohibit/discourage small project specific desalination plants.
- Encourage regional solutions.

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### • EXOTIC/NON-NATIVE/INVASIVE

### Impacts:

Displacement of native species and adverse ecosystem change.



### Recommendations:

- Perform assessment of introduction pathways for non-native invasives in Sanctuary.
- Develop prevention and contingency plans and work with aquariums, marine labs, and mariculture operations to filter water before disposing.
- Update WQPP to include invasives.
- Support outreach program for boaters regarding hull cleaning and boat washing.
- Create policy on discharges and invasives associated with cruise ships.

# **PRIORITY ISSUES – WATER QUALITY**

## **OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANS AND OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OIL EXPLORATION**

### **Impacts:**

**A spill could cause great environmental damage and effect full range of Sanctuary resources including birds, marine mammals, fish, and human users of the Sanctuary.**

### **Recommendations:**

- **Develop Sanctuary dispersants policy.**
- **Improve response capabilities for the Big Sur and Cambria coast.**
- **Develop interagency plan to minimize # and reduce impacts of small wrecks and groundings as well as vessel and debris removal (consider issue of liability insurance).**
- **Prohibit slant drilling into Sanctuary, and development outside Sanctuary, that could impact Sanctuary resources.**



# **PRIORITY ISSUES - ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

## **ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

### **Impacts:**

**Loss of species biodiversity and abundance, impacts to habitat, impacts to predator/prey interactions.**



### **Recommendations:**

**•Sanctuary should work closely with DFG and Pacific Fisheries Management Council, fishermen, divers, conservationists, and the general public to establish marine reserves within Sanctuary waters to protect habitat and ecosystems as well as provide control sites for research purposes.**

# **PRIORITY ISSUES – ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

## **SOUND: UNDERWATER ACOUSTIC RESEARCH & OPERATIONS, MILITARY OPERATIONS LIKE LFA AND OCS OIL EXPLORATION**

### **Impacts:**

**Behavioral modification, injuries, or death to marine mammals and humans.**

### **Recommendations:**

- **Combine all underwater sound issues and evaluate both long and short term impacts.**
- **Develop policy prohibiting adverse impacts**
- **associated with underwater sound.**



# **PRIORITY ISSUES – ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION**

## **MOTORIZED PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (MPWC)**

### **Impacts:**

**Sound disturbance to birds and marine mammals and other recreational users, pollution impacts associated with fuel discharge, enforcement difficulty with existing regulations.**



### **Recommendations:**

- **Evaluate zones and strengthen regulations and enforcement to include all MPWC.**
- **Address use of MPWC at Mavericks (Half Moon Bay) in winter.**

## **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- **In order to protect Sanctuary resources, a strong Enforcement Program is necessary. CWG recommends that the Sanctuary develop adequate enforcement capability and follow-through on all violations that occur.**
- **Create a comprehensive reporting system with an ability to compile violations and track actions.**
- **Education and Research are also critical elements of a good Sanctuary Management Plan. The CWG recommends focused Education and Research efforts targeting user groups and key conservation issues.**